



## **WSOP'S BIG ONE for ONE DROP™ SELLS OUT**

**HISTORIC \$1 MILLION BUY-IN EVENT TO AWARD \$18,346,673 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE PRIZE;**

**EVENT RUNS JULY 1-3, 2012; ESPN/ESPN2 TO TELEVISION FINAL TABLE JULY 3**

**Las Vegas, June 30, 2012** – After a year of planning and preparation, the biggest buy-in poker tournament ever conceived has confirmed a sellout field of 48 players will take to the felt tomorrow.

Businessmen, card sharps and philanthropists have each paid \$1,000,000 to participate in the highest stakes poker game on the planet. The winner will walk away with \$18,346,673, the largest single prize in tournament poker history, and the most coveted trophy in gaming -- a World Series of Poker championship bracelet.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Series of Poker will host Event #55, better known as the BIG ONE for ONE DROP, from July 1-3, 2012 at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. The tournament's final table will be televised on ESPN/ESPN2.

WSOP.com will exclusively live stream the first two days of coverage (July 1-2), while ESPN2 picks up live coverage (15-minute delay) on July 3 from 4-7 pm ET. Coverage then switches to ESPN at 8 PM ET and the event will be carried live until its conclusion.

In addition, ONE DROP, a charitable organization dedicated to providing access to clean water ([www.onedrop.org](http://www.onedrop.org)), will receive \$5,533,328 through an 11.1 percent allotment of each buy-in.

The prize pool will be \$42,666,672. The winner's take of \$18,346,673 breaks the previous record held by Jamie Gold, who won \$12 million at the 2006 World Series of Poker Main Event.

"Fireworks are coming early to Las Vegas," said Caesars Interactive Entertainment (CIE) Chief Executive Officer Mitch Garber. "Big One for ONE DROP participants will be immortalized, not just for pushing the limits of a centuries-old game, but for demonstrating the power of the industry to unite for a great cause."

The No-Limit Hold'em tournament will pay out the last nine players of the event. The event will be rake-free, allowing \$888,889 of each entry fee to go directly into the prize pool.

A specially-designed WSOP platinum bracelet, created by renowned watchmaker Richard Mille, will be awarded to the victor as well.

All participants in the event have been upgraded to Seven Stars status through next Spring in the Caesars Entertainment Total Rewards loyalty program. This provides the 48 players amazing benefits, including: Diamond lounge access; choice of trip to any property; invitations to Signature weekends; free cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines; comped stay at any property with 48 hours notice; plus an amenity gift of their choice. In addition, these players will be offered opening night tickets to either Cee Lo Green or Shania Twain concerts.

ONE DROP Chair and *Cirque du Soleil*® Founder Guy Laliberté announced today the following list of entrants for this historic event at the 2012 World Series of Poker.

1.	Bobby Baldwin	Chief Design & Construction Officer, MGM Resorts International	Age: 62
2.	Frederic Banjout	CEO, Eden Shoes, Paris, France	Age: 42
3.	Bob Bright	CEO, Bright Trading, LLC, Las Vegas, NV	Age: 72
4.	Ilya Bulchev	Businessman, Moscow, Russia	Age: 55
5.	Roland De Wolfe	Professional Poker Player, London, England	Age: 27
6.	Tom Dwan	Professional Poker Player, Edison, NJ, USA	Age: 25
7.	Jonathan Duhamel	Professional Poker Player, Montreal, QC, Canada	Age: 24
8.	David Einhorn	U.S. Hedge Fund Manager, Rye, New York	Age: 43
9.	Antonio Esfandiari	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 33
10.	Phil Galfond	Professional Poker Player, Potomac, Maryland	Age: 27
11.	Bertrand Gropellier	Professional Poker Player, France	Age: 31
12.	Philipp Grussem	Professional Poker Player, Germany	Age: 25
13.	Giovanni Guarascio	Businessman, Montreal, Canada	Age: 55
14.	Phil Ivey	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 36
15.	Eugene Katchalov	Professional Poker Player, New York, NY	Age: 31
16.	Cary Katz	CEO, College Loan Corporation, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 41
17.	Jens Kyllönen	Professional Poker Player, Finland	Age: 22
18.	Guy Laliberté	Founder, Cirque de Soleil, Montreal, QC, Canada	Age: 52
19.	Ben Lamb	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 27
20.	Tom Marchese	Professional Poker Player, Parsippany, NJ	Age: 24
21.	Jason Mercier	Professional Poker Player, Davie, FL.	Age: 25
22.	Michael Mizrachi	Professional Poker Player, Miami, FL.	Age: 31
23.	John Morgan	CEO, Winmark Corporation, Minneapolis, MN	Age: 71
24.	Daniel Negreanu	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 37
25.	Paul Newey	Chairman, New Wave Ventures, Dorset, United Kingdom	Age: 43
26.	Chamath Palihapitiya	Venture Capitalist, Burlingame, CA.	Age: 35
27.	Bill Perkins	Owner, Small Ventures (Private Equity), Houston, TX.	Age: 43
28.	Paul Phua	Asian Businessman, Miri, Malaysia	Age: 48
29.	Brian Rast	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 30
30.	Vivek Rajkumar	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 26
31.	Tobias Reinkemeier	Professional Poker Player, Brighton, Germany	Age: 24
32.	Andrew Robl	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 25
33.	Phil Ruffin	Owner, Treasure Island Resort, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 76
34.	Rick Salomon	Film Producer, Los Angeles, CA.	Age: 44
35.	Nick Schulman	Professional Poker Player, Manhattan, NY.	Age: 27
36.	Noah Schwartz	Professional Poker Player, Miami, FL.	Age: 28
37.	Erik Seidel	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 52
38.	Mike Sexton	Professional Poker Player, Las Vegas, NV.	Age: 64
39.	Dan Shak	Founder, SHK Asset Management, Philadelphia, PA	Age: 53
40.	Talal Shakerchi	European Hedge Fund Manager, Surrey, England	Age: 48
41.	Mikhail Smirnov	Businessman/Poker Player, Moscow, Russia	Age: 39
42.	Justin Smith	Professional Poker Player, Los Angeles, CA.	Age: 24
43.	Brandon Steven	Businessman/Car Dealer Owner, Wichita, KS.	Age: 38
44.	Sam Trickett	Professional Poker Player, East Retford, England	Age: 25
45.	Haralabos Voulgaris	Professional Sports Handicapper, Winnipeg, Canada	Age: 37
46.	Richard Yong	Asian Businessman, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Age: 54
47.	Satellite Winner	\$25,300 Mega Satellite – June 30 at Rio (name) TBD	Age: TBD
48.	Satellite Winner	MGM Resorts International June 30 VIP winner (name TBD)	Age: TBD

\*Entry List subject to change. Official entry list to be posted on WSOP.com during Level 4 of July 1<sup>st</sup>'s play.

A profile of most of these players is posted on All In for ONE DROP website at [www.allinforonedrop.com](http://www.allinforonedrop.com). The All In for ONE DROP campaign, launched last November, is designed to raise awareness on water-related issues and encourage the poker community to take action and create a powerful ripple effect.

The BIG ONE for ONE DROP is the creation of ONE DROP Chair and *Cirque du Soleil*® Founder Guy Laliberté in collaboration with fellow Montrealer and Caesars Interactive Entertainment CEO Mitch Garber. Making use of WSOP's poker expertise and global reach, it is an unprecedented effort to raise awareness of water-related issues amongst the poker community and to raise funds to allow ONE DROP to continue to deliver on its important mandate. Funds will be directed to ONE DROP projects around the world, where the team is hard at work dealing with the local water crisis.

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#### **About ONE DROP**

ONE DROP—an initiative of Guy Laliberté, Founder of *Cirque du Soleil*®—is an international non-governmental organization established in Canada, in 2007. ONE DROP fights poverty by supporting access to water and raising individual and community awareness of the need to mobilize so that safe water is accessible to all, in sufficient quantity, today and tomorrow. With its uniquely artistic approach, ONE DROP educates and implements site-specific safe water solutions while allocating microfinance loans to help ensure sustainable development. Worldwide, ONE DROP's ongoing creative projects also raise awareness about water-related issues and encourage smarter water practices. In the U.S., ONE DROP is a public charity that undertakes innovative activities in which water plays a central role as a creative force to generate positive, sustainable change worldwide. To learn more, visit **[ONEDROP.org](http://ONEDROP.org)**

#### **About the World Series of Poker**

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) is the largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world awarding millions of dollars in prize money and the prestigious gold bracelet, globally recognized as the sport's top prize. Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest running tournament in the world, dating back to 1970. In 2011, the event attracted 75,672 entrants from 105 different countries to the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas and awarded over \$192 million in prize money. To learn more about the World Series of Poker, visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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